



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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14 JANUARY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam

Moscow today released a communiqué on the Shelepin visit to Hanoi. So far Hanoi has not yet broadcast any such communiqué.

No reference is made in the Moscow release to US peace moves. This could reflect continuing differences between Moscow and Hanoi on this key issue. Failure to find a consensus on the matter may in fact account for the delay in putting the communiqué out.

According to the TASS version, Shelepin signed a new agreement on additional Soviet assistance of an unspecified nature. The communiqué expressed North Vietnam's gratitude for the "big and valuable" Soviet economic and military aid already given.

The communiqué goes on to say that the North Vietnamese party has accepted a Soviet invitation to send a delegation to the Soviet 23rd party conference in Moscow next month. There has been speculation that the Soviets may try to use the occasion to call an international Communist confab on Vietnam with an anti-Chinese flavor.

2. North Vietnam

Hanoi has parroted Peking's blasts against the President's State of the Union message. Today, the North Vietnamese said the message showed again that the US talk about peace was merely designed to conceal a "dark intent to escalate and expand the war."

Hanoi also published today a critique of the "fraudulent" US 14-point program. The article stressed the need for the US to withdraw "unconditionally" and "recognize" the South Vietnamese Liberation Front and its program. It went on to suggest an "unconditional" end to the bombing.

3. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy is pursuing his efforts to get Caamano and two other top rebels to leave the country. Last evening, he told the Organization of American States committee that these rebels would probably depart tonight, but a "few problems" remain to be solved.

Garcia Godoy meanwhile has banned the Dominican leftists who went to the Tri-Continent Conference in Havana from returning to the country. The effectiveness of this ban may be tested shortly, since the conference ends this evening.

4. Soviet Union

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5. Thailand

The tempo of Communist activity is quickening.

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Assassinations
of local officials and police informants
were reported on 5 and 11 January.

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The nature of the threat is considered in today's Annex.

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6. Rhodesia

The US Consulate General in Salisbury now sees signs that the situation there could deteriorate rapidly if the economic squeeze continues. Increasing unemployment among Africans and underemployment among whites are having a significant impact, in the consulate's view, along with the oil sanctions program.

Business leaders, who were wary of independence from the start, now seem to be desperately discouraged, and a crisis meeting of local bankers was called today. Farmers and the white man in the street, however, are still under Smith's spell, and they are the real mainstay of his regime.

British Commonwealth Secretary Bottomley's trip to Salisbury has been cancelled. Smith apparently posed unacceptable conditions to letting Bottomley in. We are still unsure just what Wilson had in mind for him to do.

In London, the British are considering a token airlift of copper from Zambia. They also have alerted our embassy to the possibility of a quick meeting of the principal copper consuming countries to take a look at the whole problem of world copper supply.

7. France

De Gaulle's trip to Moscow is scheduled for early June, according to Foreign Minister Couve de Murville, who has told Ambassador Bohlen that the trip does not signify any shift in French policy.

Couve also told Bohlen that the French still want changes in NATO. They probably will be ready to start talks the latter part of March, and they still wish to begin by exchanging views bilaterally with the US.

8. Indonesia

The student demonstrations in Jakarta against Sukarno's henchmen continued today, and the army evidently has decided to ignore his order to halt them. One of the student slogans today was "ministers are legal gangsters."

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Sukarno is to hold a cabinet meeting tomorrow. The press has been invited, so this may be the occasion for another petulant pronouncement. Sukarno still gives every sign of holding out stubbornly against the army tide.

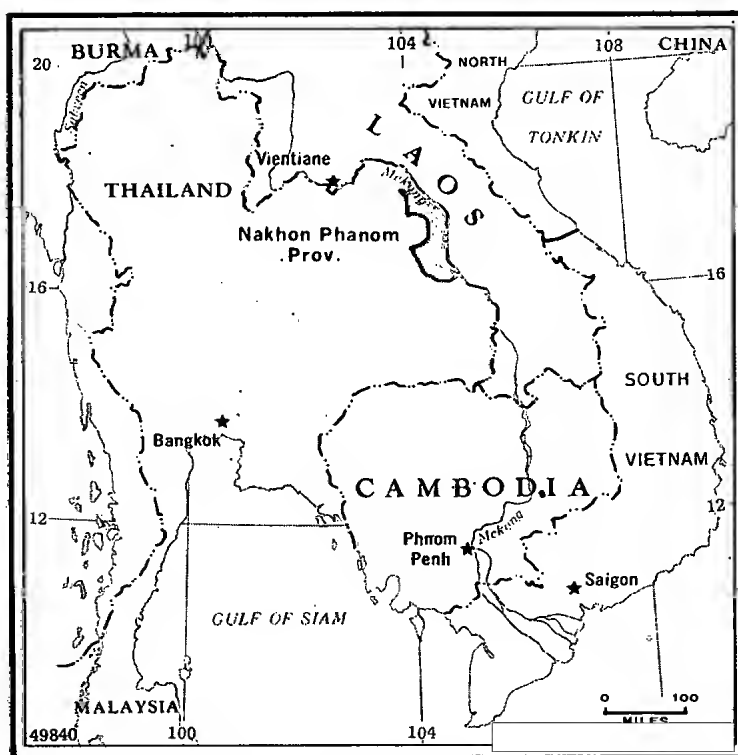
9. India-Pakistan

Despite the Ayub regime's efforts to portray the Tashkent declaration as a success for Pakistan, hostility is widespread among the public. Students have taken the lead in demonstrating, and a number of anti-Ayub slogans have appeared.

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In India, a minor cabinet member has resigned in protest against the Tashkent declaration. The top Indian leaders, however, do not expect serious opposition. Although they see some possible pitfalls in carrying out the agreement, they say they are determined to fulfill this "moral commitment."

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THAILAND

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ANNEX

Communist Subversion in Thailand

The trouble so far has been concentrated in the remote northeast region of the country centering in Nakhon Phanom Province (see map). Very clearly the Communists regard this area as particularly vulnerable. Economically the northeast is a backward and depressed area. It is physically isolated and its inhabitants are ethnically closer to the Lao than to the Thai. There has been a lack of rapport between Bangkok and the northeasterners.

Another threat is a refugee community of about 40,000 North Vietnamese. These people have long been under the influence of Hanoi.

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However, until a little over a year ago the Communists seemed to move slowly and circumspectly. At that time a Thai Independence Movement and a Thai Patriotic Front were formed in Peking. These organizations, now fused, have been given the job of leading the drive to oust the Thanom government and kick out the "US imperialists." During the course of the year we began to see a considerable increase in Communist recruiting and training activities. In recent months, there has been an upswing in terrorist activities, such as the murder of village leaders.

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During the later months of 1965 there were indeed a number of skirmishes between bands of Communists and government security forces though most of them came as a result of vigorous government patrolling. At the end of December, the Communists launched their first offensive effort, an attack by a small band on a Thai Government outpost.

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ANNEX (Cont'd)

[redacted] the Communists displayed good training and discipline. Their tactics gave evidence of coordination. Communist documents have been found in their camps.

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Thai forces have launched several operations into the isolated northeastern valleys that house these Communist bands but so far government units have not had much success in pinning down and destroying them.

Peking believes that the time is ripe for a further stepping up in these operations. In a statement marking its first anniversary, the Peking-based Thai front specifically called for an expansion of the existing "armed struggle" into an all-out "people's war." At the same time the Communists have been putting more emphasis on the US presence in Thailand. As Peking sees it, this year's operations in Thailand will make a greater contribution to the overall fight against the "American imperialists." Although Peking seems to be taking the lead, Hanoi is very much an interested party.

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Although the Communist effort so far has been concentrated on the soft spot in the northeast, Communist agitators have been active elsewhere in northern Thailand, as well as in the south.

Bangkok is now trying to counter the threat in the northeast by developing the economy and by tying it more closely to the rest of the country.

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